FEMALE CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF LESLEY LOKKO

A SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED STUDY

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BY

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Introduction:

Women are the foundation of the world. Yet they are struggling to make their own identity. Women have been facing social obstacles right from the beginning of the history. They suffered and are suffering humiliation and suppression in every aspect of their life. They have been leading the life of confinement by the so called social restrictions, norms and regulations. The sacrificial role of women still continues even in this 21st century, though we claim equality for masculine and feminine genders. The cases of sexual harassment and domestic abuse of women highlight the fact that even basic human rights were denied to them. In terms of mental health and education empowerment they are always ignored. The feminism is an ideology which seeks not only to understand the world of women but to change it to the advantage of women.

The study highlights a specific view about female consciousness in the select novels of Lesley Lokko and in general. The literary meaning of female consciousness is the belief and objective that women should have the same opportunities and rights as men and struggle to achieve these objectives. The female consciousness also stands for the strong awareness of women identity and interest in female problems. English writers have explored the various types of female consciousness in English literature such as self-consciousness, gender consciousness, class consciousness, social consciousness, identification consciousness, culture consciousness. Thus female consciousness wants equal rights and opportunities for women as a social movement.

Life and Work of Lesley Lokko:

Lesley Naa Lokko is a Ghanaian Scottish architect, academician and a novelist. Lesley lokko was born in Dundee, the daughter of a Ghanaian surgeon and a Scottish Jewish mother and grew up in Ghana and Scotland. She graduated from the Bartett School of architecture university college London with a B.Sc. (Arch) in 1992 and MArch in 1995 and went on earn a PhD in Architecture from the University of London in 2007. She did rather a lot of things before becoming a writer. It took seven years to become an architect for Lesley but she changed her mind and she is a full time writer now for nearly ten years. Lesley Lokkos novels deal with the problems of women; hence she has been termed as a feminist author who expresses a deep concern for the women.

Novels:

Sundowners (2004)
Saffron Skies (2005)
Bitter Chocolate (2008)
Rich Girl Poor Girl (2009)
One Secret Summer (2010)
A Private Affaire (2011)
An Absolute Deception (2012)
Little White Lies (2014)
In love and war (2014)

Aim of the study:

The present study aims at analyzing the female consciousness in the select novels of Lesley Lokko.

Objectives of the study:

- To study and explore female consciousness in the select novels of Lesley Lokko.
- To analyze the contribution of Lesley Lokko to English literature.

Hypothesis:

The select novels of Lesley Lokko reveal the female consciousness and focus on marginalization, oppression, exploitation and misery of woman.

Review of Relevant Literature:

The observations about the works of Lesley Lokko are in the form of critical essays, magazines, book reviews and interviews.eg. African perspective (South) Africa city, society, space, literature and architecture by A. Grafland, Dark space, Architecture, Representation Black identity by Mari O Gooden, Calm My Blood Race difference form by LNN Lokko Artifice 1996 etc.

Lesley Lokko is a popular writer as for as her writing is concerned, so many interviews and magazine articles are available but no research as such is attempted yet. In fact, much attention has not been paid by the researchers to the contribution of Lesley Lokko on female consciousness.

Significance of the topic:

Female consciousness is one of the most important literary movements. The researcher attempts to study the selected novels of early twenty first century Scottish novels. The selected novels are not ever studied according to the perspective taken. Hence, the researcher intends to deal with the female consciousness in the novels of Lesley Lokko.

Scope and limitations of the study:

Present work will be confined to select novels of Lesley Lokko. Only the novels will be considered for the study, non- fiction work will not come under the purview of the study.

Research Methodology:

Descriptive, Textual analysis, Analytical, Evaluative and Interpretative methods will be used for the study.

Tentative chapter scheme:

The following is a tentative chapter scheme of the proposed study

Chapter I: Introduction

A. Brief biographical sketch of Lesley Lokko.
B. Influences in the making of Lesley Lokko.
C. Significance and objectives of the study.
D. Review of relevant literature.

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework: Female Consciousness

Chapter III: Female subjugation and marginalization in **Sundowners, Saffron Skies, Bitter Chocolate**

Chapter IV: Female struggle for identity and individuality in **Rich Girl Poor Girl, One Secret Summer, Private Affaire**

Chapter V: Reflection of female empowerment in **An Absolute Deception, Little White Lies**

Chapter VI: Conclusion

The last chapter will be followed by select bibliography.

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